



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: July 27, 2026

TO: Transportation Authority Board

FROM: Executive Director - Tilly Chang

SUBJECT: 07/28/2026 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

NHTSA Urges AV Developers to Improve First Responder Safety. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Administrator Jonathan Morrison's July 8, 2026, letter to autonomous vehicle (AV) industry leaders stated that the agency had identified a clear pattern of driverless AVs interfering with law enforcement and other first responders, including vehicles that drove directly into active emergency scenes, blocked the paths of ambulances and firefighters, or failed to recognize and respond to basic safety conditions such as flashing lights, flares, smoke, fire, and traffic cones. Administrator Morrison called this unacceptable, stating that an AV that cannot safely interact with first responders is a danger to the general public, and framing the failures as a "functional insufficiency" rather than a rare edge case. The letter was a call to action, not a formal mandate, though NHTSA said it would schedule meetings with developers by the end of the month to hear proposed solutions and would continue exercising its enforcement authority against developers who do not address significant safety concerns. No specific company or incident was named.

LOCAL ISSUES

Mayor Lurie Calls for State Standards for AV Performance and Readiness at Large Events following July 4 Traffic Gridlock. Following traffic gridlock at the July 4 fireworks display near the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie issued a letter on July 16, 2026, to California Secretary of Transportation Toks Omishakin, calling for statewide standards governing AVs during major events and emergencies. The letter highlighted issues observed during two recent events: the December 20, 2025, power outage, during which Waymo vehicles were immobilized amid widespread signal outages across roughly one-third of the city, and the July 4, 2026, fireworks celebration, during which Waymo vehicles obstructed traffic despite



advanced coordination, requiring towing after their batteries were depleted. The letter noted that, fortunately, no major emergency occurred during either event, but that responders would have encountered the same gridlock had one arisen, with potentially worse consequences. Framing the request as a matter of regulatory maturity rather than opposition to the technology, the letter called for statewide standards requiring manufacturers to demonstrate four capabilities prior to operating during major events: preventing vehicles from remaining stranded in travel lanes, adjusting operations in real time, providing operational transparency to local agencies, and demonstrating readiness through testing rather than live deployment.

Supervisors Issue Inquiries to City Departments About July 4 Traffic and Transit Management. Following the extreme congestion, transit delays and AV malfunctions at the July 4 Golden Gate Bridge fireworks event, Supervisor Mahmood issued a request to city departments to explain the factors that contributed to the gridlock. Supervisor Sherrill also called for a hearing at the Board of Supervisors to review these issues and how they can be better managed ahead of Fleet Week events in October. Our staff are participating in city meetings on these topics and supporting coordination efforts to discuss lessons learned.

Vice Chair Sauter Celebrates New Bay Wheels Split Station. Earlier this month, Vice Chair Sauter, SFMTA, Lyft Bay Wheels, and community partners celebrated the opening of a new Bay Wheels split bike share station in San Francisco at the intersection of Stockton and Vallejo streets. The project introduces a split-station design, with bike-share docks located on opposite sides of the street to improve access and reduce curb conflicts. Not only will this new design benefit the bike share system, but these stations will also help protect the safety benefits of daylighting by discouraging vehicle parking in daylight locations. The Stockton and Vallejo event recognized continued collaboration among agency and private-sector partners to expand the Bay Wheels network and improve first- and last-mile connections for transit riders, residents, and visitors. We appreciate our partners' continued efforts to make bicycling a safer and more convenient transportation option throughout San Francisco.

Bayview Caltrain Study Recommends Oakdale Station Location; Community Outreach Planned for August. At the request of Commissioner Walton, the Bayview Caltrain Station Location Study is intended to identify a single station location for a potential infill Caltrain station in the Bayview to replace the former Paul Avenue station which was closed over two decades ago. After hearing from community members about their priorities for a station, technical analyses and coordinating with



Caltrain staff, the Transportation Authority's study team recommends a site at Oakdale Avenue, adjacent to the former Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale, as the preferred location. The project team expects to gather feedback from stakeholders and community members during this round of outreach and then bring a draft final report to the Board for consideration later this year. Open houses are planned for August 19 and August 20 at the Southeast Community Center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The August 19th meeting will be in English with Spanish and Chinese translations and interpretation provided. The August 20th meeting will be in Spanish. Transportation Authority staff have submitted a One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) application for approximately \$1 million to fund the next phase of work, which would include continuing to advance the station design in coordination with Caltrain and prepare for environmental review. For more information on the Study and on upcoming community outreach, visit sfcta.org/bayview-caltrain.

Western Addition - Geary Boulevard Community Study Outreach Commences.

The Western Addition - Geary Boulevard Community Study is rethinking the urban renewal-era Geary Expressway. The study will develop transportation and land use concept designs to create a more connected, safer, and livable neighborhood. The study's first season of community engagement is now underway. A survey is available on the Transportation Authority's website at www.sfcta.org seeking feedback on the study's draft goals, neighborhood priorities, locations that feel unsafe or challenging to navigate, and the uses, services, and amenities community members would like to see along the corridor. The survey takes under 10 minutes to complete and is offered in six languages: English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian. The study's Community Council recently hosted a couple of events, including a Jewish history walking tour and a Japantown walking tour, and is also hosting a series of outreach events throughout the summer. For more information, to take the survey, and to view the Community Outreach Event Calendar, visit sfcta.org/projects/western-addition-geary-boulevard-community-study.

Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study Outreach Launches. Last week, we launched the first round of outreach for the Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study which aims to develop a more complete understanding of freight activity and impacts in the neighborhood and identify strategies to reduce conflicts between large trucks and other road users. Previous studies in the neighborhood found that heavy trucks traveling between industrial areas and freeways create safety, livability, and pollution challenges for residents. Community members can provide their feedback on truck traffic and conflicts in a survey that is available on the



Transportation Authority's website. The survey is provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese and is open through August 28. Funding for the Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study is provided by a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant and matching Prop L sales tax funds. For more information, including upcoming events, visit sfcta.org/projects/bayview-street-safety-and-truck-relief-study.

PROJECT DELIVERY

SFMTA 30-foot Bus Fleet Brake Issue - Repairs Underway, Monitoring

Continues: On June 1, SFMTA became aware of a braking issue on one of Muni's 30-foot buses, which serve the narrow and winding routes that provide access to San Francisco's hilliest neighborhoods. Subsequently, SFMTA took its 30-foot bus fleet out of service for inspection. The affected fleet is comprised of 30 El Dorado National California hybrid-electric vehicles that were purchased using Prop K sales tax funds between 2021 and 2025. SFMTA found stress cracks on the brake chamber brackets of 17 of the vehicles and is working with the manufacturer of the brake parts and buses to return vehicles to regular service as the buses are repaired and clear inspection. While the 30-foot buses were out of service, SFMTA used 40-foot buses to serve the 35 Eureka, 36 Teresita, 37 Corbett, 39 Coit, 56 Rutland, 66 Quintara, and 67 Bernal Heights routes. SFMTA had to modify service on many routes due to the ability of 40-foot buses to navigate narrow streets and temporary reroutes remain in effect on the 37 Corbett. SFMTA staff are keeping the public, affected Commissioners' offices and our staff apprised of service changes and status of the fleet.

Mission/Geneva Infrastructure Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting. Earlier this month, we joined Transportation Authority Commissioner and Supervisor Chyanne Chen, Mayor Daniel Lurie, SF Public Works, SFMTA, and community members to celebrate the completion of the Mission Street and Geneva Avenue Infrastructure Improvement Project in the Excelsior and Outer Mission neighborhoods. Mission Street and Geneva Avenue are both part of the City's Vision Zero High Injury Network. The project's capital improvements include 34 corner bulb-outs, 17 concrete bus pads, three bus bulbs, one transit island, street resurfacing, 87 curb ramps, upgraded traffic signals, two raised crosswalks, visibility daylighting along the corridor, adjusted transit stops, curb and loading management and bikeway improvements on Geneva Avenue. These improvements will increase safety for all users, improve transit reliability on the most heavily used bus routes in the



neighborhood and benefit local businesses. The Transportation Authority contributed over \$8.6 million from the Prop K transportation sales tax and Prop AA vehicle registration fee for the design and construction phases, representing over one quarter of the total project cost of approximately \$30 million.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Transportation Authority Shares AV Safety Framework at European Commission Seminar. Last week, Principal Planner Jean Paul Velez and I presented virtually at the European Commission's seminar, "ADS: AVs Without Borders – Global Approaches to Deployment," a 250-person gathering of regulators, researchers, and operators from around the world addressing the practical challenges of deploying automated driving systems safely on public roads. Our staff presentation discussed the U.S. and California AV regulatory landscape, San Francisco's operational experience with AVs on city streets, and the Transportation Authority's conceptual safety-focused permitting framework. The conference corresponded with the release of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) – an historic compendium of global rules in June 2026 to legally enable fully autonomous driving systems (ADS), establishing mandatory frameworks for safety management, rigorous testing, and continuous monitoring.